

## References:

- Delacour, J. 1943. A revision of the subfamily Estrildinae of the Ploceidae. *Zoologica*, N.Y. 28: 69-81.
- Steiner, H. 1960. Klassifikation der Prachtfinken, Spermestidae, auf Grund der Rachenzeichnungen ihrer Nestlinge. *J. Orn.* 101: 92-112.

***Bradypterus barratti major* (Roberts) 1922**  
**pre-occupied by *Bradypterus major* (Brooks) 1872**

by P. A. CLANCEY AND H. E. WOLTERS

Received 4th September, 1962

In the *Annals of the Transvaal Museum*, vol. viii, 4, 1922, p. 234, Austin Roberts proposed a new race of Scrub Warbler *Bradypterus barratti* (Sharpe) under the name *Caffrillas barratti major*, the Type from Wakkerstroom, on the Transvaal/Natal border. This taxon has generally been admitted as valid by systematic workers, and is listed in Vincent, *Check List of the Birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 78; Clancey, *Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. 75, 4, 1955, pp. 38-44; and McLachlan and Liversidge, *Roberts' Birds of South Africa*, 1957, p. 323, in the combination *Bradypterus barratti major* (Roberts), 1922.

The name *major* cannot, however, be used for a South African *Bradypterus*, as it is pre-occupied by *Bradypterus major* (Brooks), 1872; Kashmir (*Dumeticola major* Brooks, *Journ. Asiatic Soc. Bengal*, vol. xli, p. 77) a form occasionally placed in *Tribura* Hodgson, a genus now admitted by workers as being synonymous with *Bradypterus* Swainson, 1837. Incidentally, Vaurie, *Birds of the Palearctic Faune*, vol. i, 1959, p. 299, lists *Tribura* as a subgenus, but treats *Dumeticola major* as *Bradypterus major*.

Arising from the above finding, another name will be required for *B. b. major* (Roberts). Two names have been given to Natal populations of this warbler, namely, *Bradypterus (Caffrillas) barratti wilsoni* Roberts, 1933: Kloof, Natal, and *Bradypterus barratti cathkinensis* Vincent, 1948: near Cathkin Peak and the Mahlabachaneng Pass, Giants' Castle Game Reserve, Natal. In the review of the races of *B. barratti* by one of us (P. A. C. [*loc. cit.*]), both *B. b. wilsoni* and *B. b. cathkinensis* were placed as synonyms of *B. b. godfreyi* (Roberts), 1922: Pirie, eastern Cape Province. A re-examination of material of the Natal populations confirms that *B. b. wilsoni* is indistinguishable from *B. b. godfreyi*, but that *B. b. cathkinensis* is applicable to populations which are colder and greyer brown on the upper parts and clearer grey, less olive tinged, over the breast and lateral body surfaces. On the basis of fresh material, it now seems that there is no valid racial difference between the populations of this warbler occurring in the high parts of Griqualand East, the western escarpment and upper districts of Natal, and those found in the Wakkerstroom district, of the south-eastern Transvaal, which results in Vincent's *B. b. cathkinensis* (*vide Bull. B.O.C.*, vol. lxxix, 2, 1948, p. 18) becoming available as the correct name for *B. b. major* (Roberts), pre-occupied.\*

The range of *B. b. godfreyi* has now been determined as from the eastern Cape Province, through Pondoland and coastal and midland Natal to Zululand, north as far as the Lebombo Range.

\* In the light of these findings the recently proposed name *Bradypterus barratti lysis* Parker, *Bull. B.O.C.*, 82, p. 122 (1962), becomes a synonym of *Bradypterus barratti cathkinensis* Vincent.